as to work up to Prohibition, and whether, year after year, we cannot reduce the shops by 2, 3 or 4 or something like that.

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—With regard to toddy and arrack shops, I have reduced 21 shops for next year.

President.—We have done it. With regard to foreign liquor shops, could that be done?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—It is only in taverns that liquor is sold for consumption on the premises, and there are only 3 or 4 of these. The same number will be continued for next year also, because the same have been auctioned. In the retail shops foreign liquor is sold in sealed bottles for consumption off the premises, and the consumption of liquor on the premises is prohibited.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Outside the premises it is permitted.

President.—Whether we reduce the number of shops or whether we increase, it will not tell much upon the consumption.

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—There will not be much use of reducing the liquor shops except taverns.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Are people permitted to import foreign liquor from British India without the knowledge of the Superintendent?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—They can import for private consumption.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Should not the shop keepers get the permission of the Superintendent for importing liquor for sale?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—Yes, they can sell only in sealed bottles.

Mr. M. K. Raman.—On a point of information, Sir—

President.—You are not in order, Mr. Raman. Information is asked by questions which no Member can do, when another is in possession of the House. So please sit down.

The distance between liquor shops.

115. Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Will the Government be pleased to state whether there is any rule, and if so, what is the rule, prescribing the shortest distance between (a) two liquor shops, (b) two arrack shops and (c) two toddy shops?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.— There is no general rule,

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Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Is there any specific rule prescribing the shortest distance between two liquor shops, arrack shops, toddy shops, etc.?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—If the Member means by the question whether there is any rule, I will say there is no written rule. But the sites of the shops in some cases have been fixed in the schedule. That will show the distance between the shops. So there is some rule, Sir.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—What is the rule?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—It is seen from the boundaries in the schedule.

President.—There is no general or particular rule that a shop should be located at a particular place, except what is laid down in the schedule.

Liquor shops in Kunnamkulam.

116. Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Will the Government be pleased to inform—

(a) how many liquor shops there are within Kunnamkulam Town limits; and

(b) the quantity of liquor (arrack, toddy and foreign liquor, separately) sold there annually for the last 6 years?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—(a) Two arrack, two toddy and two F. L. shops.

(b) The quantity of arrack (35° U. P.) sold

in 1095	is	525	gallons.
,, 1096	is	540	,,
,, 1097	is	395	,,
,, 1098	is	406	,,
,, 1099	is	434	,,
,, 1100	is	406	,,

The information required with respect to toddy cannot be furnished, since it is not required to maintain accounts of its sale.

As to foreign liquor, the department does not maintain any record showing the quantities sold by the licensees. They are required to keep accounts during the currency of the lease, after the expiry of which the account books are taken away by them.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Will any arrangement be made for knowing the the quantity of toddy sold?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—I think some accounts should be kept to know whether the consumption of toddy is increasing or decreasing.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Will it be done in future?

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